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Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 8

August 1997

Chief Names Dale Bosworth Regional Forester



Dale Bosworth

Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck announced August 6 that Dale Bosworth will serve as the new regional forester for the Northern Region and Hal Salwasser, R-1 regional forester in Missoula since July 1995, will be station director for the Pacific Southwest Forest & Range Experiment Station in Albany, California.

No reporting dates have been announced. Salwasser said he would be in Missoula until October to assist Bosworth with the transition.

Salwasser said "I am honored and pleased that Chief Dombeck has asked me to serve as Station Director in such an important area." The Pacific Southwest Station conducts research focused on California, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the former trust territories in the Pacific.

Bosworth, a forestry management graduate of the University of Idaho, noted that the Northern Region's issues "are a microcosm of those facing the agency. Increasing demands are being placed on publicly-owned lands and waters.

"I look forward to working with all who use and care for these precious resources to define and implement a shared vision for their health, diversity and productivity."

Bosworth has served at all levels of the

Forest Service, most recently as the Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region, headquartered in Ogden, Utah. He started his Forest Service career in the Northern Region on the St. Joe National Forest in Idaho, now part of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. He later served on the Kaniksu (Idaho), Colville (Washington) and Lolo (Montana) National Forests.

After serving as district ranger on the Clearwater National Forest (Idaho), Bosworth moved to the Flathead National Forest where he served as planning staff officer before becoming the deputy Forest supervisor. From that post he was promoted to assistant director for land management planning in the Northern Region headquarters in Missoula. In this post he was involved in the development of R-1 Forest Plans. Subsequent assignments included supervisor of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in 1986 (Utah); deputy director for timber management in the national headquarters in Washington, D.C.; in 1992 he was promoted to deputy regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region (California); in 1994, he was promoted to regional forester for the Intermountain Region, headquartered in Ogden, Utah. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and Society for Range Management.

Partnership Council Progress Report On Aligning Work Process, Workforce

In June the Northern Region Partnership Council released a preliminary summary of proposals to initiate dialogue among management, employees and interested publics about ways to adjust to the Region's anticipated \$20 to \$30 million budget reduction in the next fiscal year.

After reviewing the comments, proposals and suggestions about approaches to downsizing, reorganization and achieving more efficient operations within the budget and staff restrictions, the R-1 Partnership Council (RIPC), on August 5, released a revision and update of the proposal. Copies were provided to all R-1 employees. The R-1 Partnership Council is composed of three

representatives of management and three representatives of the employee union (National Federation of Federal Employees):

Hal Salwasser, Regional Forester; **Richard M. Bacon**, Deputy Regional Forester (Administration); **Kathleen A. McAllister**, Deputy Regional Forester (Resources); **Debra Perry**, National Federation of Federal Employees, Forestry

Technician, Sandpoint RD, Idaho Panhandle National Forests; **Charles M. (Sklp) Hegman**, National Federation of Federal Employees, Forestry Technician, Missoula RD, Lolo National Forest; **Linda Buck**, National Federation of Federal Employees, Civil Engineering Technician, St. Joe RD, Idaho Panhandle NF.

Hard copies of the 35-page revised and updated August 4 proposal are available by telephoning the RO Public & Governmental Relations office (406) 329-3093 or, if more convenient, request a copy from P&GR via DG (j.moore:R01A).

See **REPORT**, Page 2

REPORT *(continued from page 1)*

Those using Forest Service telecommunications networks will find the progress report on the Forest Service Intranet:

fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us, under NEWS & NOTES, "Partnership Meeting Notes," Northern Region Partnership Council Proposal.

"Our budget situation is serious," Debra Perry and Hal Salwasser said. "It requires actions such as those we are proposing. We have reviewed every comment and suggestion that you sent us...we worked hard to incorporate your input into this refined set of proposals."

At a teleconference "Family Meeting" in the RO on August 5, linked to all R-1 National Forest, all six members of the Council participated in the presentation and explanation of the report, "Aligning R-1 for Improved Performance." Following the summary presentation, Council members responded to questions from employees.

Salwasser and Perry, explained "The choices are ours. So are the consequences. We could let declining budgets and small workforces dictate our future. Or, we can take positive steps to chart a more desirable course...We must work together at all levels of the organization to achieve the outcome."

Salwasser, in his remarks to the employees, said the Northern Region's "Financial Health Plan involves reducing costs and increasing budget income." He pointed out that the Region's budget has been reduced \$44 million from 1995 to 1997, a decline of more than 17%.

The Council's revised proposal includes changes that will be accomplished immediately. These (Category I) actions are completely within current authority. The Region will begin implementing other actions (Category II) by Oct. 1, 1997. Others will require more time. These will be targeted for implementation in fiscal years 1998, 1999 and beyond (Category III).

Savings of more than \$4 million are scheduled for the RO under Category I, by the end of the fiscal year. They include but are not limited to: reducing the "green fleet" of vehicles; trim space in RO; trim back cash awards program; eliminate health club financing; discontinue RO first aid program.

The Region has made informal, oral requests of the WO for buy-out authorization. Later this month, R-1 will submit a formal, written request for buy-out authorization to help in adjusting to the reduced budget. This could represent savings in excess of \$675,000 in the Region.

Savings in excess of \$1.3 are anticipated in travel and training reductions.

Salwasser, on July 22, established a "Regionwide freeze on external permanent hiring. This is being done to maintain Regional flexibility as we work through our restructuring effort."



R-1 PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS (left to right), McAllister, Buck, Salwasser, Bacon and Hegman discuss the Council's proposals with radio, newspaper and television news reporters in Missoula.

An estimated \$7 to \$10 million in savings is possible, he told employees attending and listening to the August "Family Meeting," if the Region is authorized to utilize the Columbia Basin Plan (Environmental Impact Statement) in updating R-1 Forest Plans.

"Our fixed costs are going up," he pointed out. "Much of the decline is a reflection of the continuing decline in the R-1 timber program. There will be an even smaller timber program in the future."

As the Region's budget declines from \$218 million in fiscal year 1997, to a projected \$187 million in fiscal 1999, the Council report says that "To improve our financial health, we must first prioritize our work while downsizing our organization to fit anticipated budgets. We call this part 'stopping the bleeding.' After we do that, we can work on making the 'patient' more vigorous."

The Council considers "significant workforce reductions and office consolidations to be the last resort, to be employed only when and after all other possible actions have been tried and failed. Having said that, we must be clear that we do not assume that our downsizing and/or restructuring will maintain traditional kinds of Forest Service organizations, just smaller ones."

R-1 Training Academy

965 Employees Take 148 Classes At '97 Academy

by Donna Sheehy, RO Engineering

The 1997 R-1 Regional Training Academy (RTA) was held March 17-21 on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. It was a big success.

More than 965 employees attended a total of 148 classes on a variety of subjects. The previous year (1996) 855 employees attended 167 courses.

The attendees liked the new School of Business Administration (Gallagher Building), advanced parking permits, the variety of classes, reconnecting with old friends, the brown bag lunch, speakers, and the overall economy of this approach to training. On the other hand, they didn't like the bomb scare, 75-cent coffee, and being indoors on the best weather week of the year.

Total cost of the five-day academy was just over \$14,000, which means that the cost per attendee was under \$15.

Next year's Regional Training Academy will be March 16-20, 1998, on the University of Montana campus. Mark the dates and plan to participate in the academy classes next spring.



MARTY BOURASSA, RO Financial Resources, teaching a class at the 1997 RTA on trust fund financial management

User-Friendly Computer Kiosk Lets Fingers Walk

by Tim Eldridge, Information Assistant,
Missoula Aerial Fire Depot
Visitor Center.

Travel Montana, in the Montana State Department of Commerce's Travel Promotion & Development Division, has a variety of ways of making information available to Montanans, tourists, and other traveling publics.

Now, with the cooperation and assistance of the Forest Service and a number of other Federal and State agencies, Travel Montana has developed an information delivery technique that lets your fingers do the walking. No! It isn't a telephone.

The new technique literally lets your fingers walk across a multi-media computer touch screen.

Last year, Travel Montana produced ten of these Traveling Kiosks, electronic information wonders that provide information that ranges from rest areas to restaurants, public facilities, and historic sites. Approximately 8,000 attractions can be called up on the user-friendly screen.

When you find the information you want, just touch the print button and the kiosk will print and deliver the information to you. All ten kiosks are monitored by Travel Montana's office in Helena. During the winter, statewide road information and ski conditions are updated every day.

Montana Travel emphasizes that new information is needed at all times to keep the kiosks current. State and Federal agencies are encouraged to submit changes and new information about their areas. "This is an ongoing process," explains Travel Montana employee Shaw Peterson. "This is not a onetime thing. Please send us more information, especially photos."

Shawn says the kiosk currently provides 4,000 photos on various Montana locations. The travel kiosks are located throughout Montana. The one shown in this picture was located last year in the Smokejumper Visitor Center at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot (7 miles west of Missoula). It is now in the RO in the lobby of the Missoula Federal Building.

Stop by and let your fingers walk across the screen and search out Montana travel information for you.

**TRAVEL
INFORMATION KIOSK**
at the Smokejumper
Visitor Center, Missoula
Aerial Fire Depot. Photo by
Tim Eldridge.



Young Irish Adults Spend Six Weeks As Lolo Volunteers

Jon P. Agner, fire prevention technician, Seeley Lake (MT) Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, has been actively involved in bringing Protestant and Catholic children and young adults to western Montana.

Founder and now chairman of the Montana Chapter of Project Children, Agner, in the past five years, has arranged for 70 Irish children and young adults to spend summers in Montana.

Last summer, the Project Children program was expanded to include young adults from Queens University in Belfast and gave them work experience in their fields of study. In 1996, four of these young adults served six weeks as volunteer on the Lolo National Forest.

This year, Project Children entered into a

partnership with the International Fund for Ireland and the Habitat for Humanity and brought 12 young adults interested in the construction trades (four Catholics and four Protestants from Northern Ireland and four from the Republic of Ireland) for 10 weeks to help build a Habitat for Humanity house in north Missoula and they help with the construction of a homeless shelter in Helena, MT.

The Habitat house was dedicated July 20 and turned over to Gayle Collins and her family. She and her family had invested 500 hours of "Sweat Equity" in their new home.

"It was an unbelievable success," explained Agner. "The young Irish adults came here for the opportunity to work together in a neutral setting. After the first week of work on the Habitat House, they bonded into a tight, working group."

"While acquiring important hands-on experience and building skills," Agner said, "the students were able to break down the centuries-old barriers that separate them in Ireland. These particular students were selected from areas where paramilitary groups, like the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Irish Republican Army, are very active and hostilities between the factions are strongest."



STEVE MOSS & JOSEPH QUINN
from Belfast Ireland, inspect a
timber sale on the Missoula RD.



MICHAEL DUFFY & SHEILA KELLY, both from
Belfast, Ireland, on Seeley Lake RD initial fire
attack. Photos by Jon Agner, Seeley Lake RD, Lolo NF

On July 5, two university students from Belfast, Ireland, arrived in Missoula with the regular summer group of Irish Project Children. The two students, a Catholic and a Protestant, are both graduate students in Environmental Science. They worked as volunteers for six weeks this summer on the Lolo National Forest.

Seeley Lake District Ranger Tim Love and Mrs. Love hosted a 10-year-old Irish girl this summer.

The travel and responsibilities for coordinating the Project Children required Agner to take leave without pay several times from his regular Forest Service job.

Lead-Based Paints, Global Positioning, Animal Feeding Signs

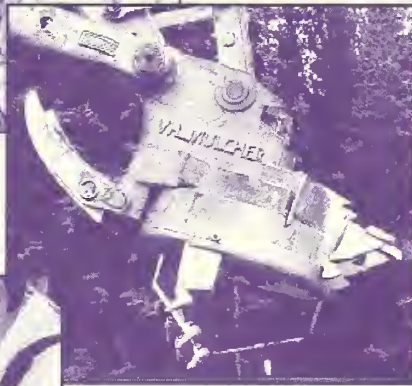
Missoula Technology & Development Center
Bldg No. 1, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59801

Photos by Bob Beckley, Missoula Technology & Development Center.



WILDLIFE FEEDING INJURIES ON CONIFERS in the Pacific Northwest is being reprinted with the permission of the Western Forestry & Conservation Association. Foresters have a special interest in the ability to recognize the feeding signs of animals that are damaging forest stands [SEE PHOTO]. In order to develop effective control measures, the animal(s) causing the damage must be correctly identified. The guide aids in that identification. To obtain a copy, telephone Will Hoffmann (406) 329-3978.

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) MTDC is coordinating the Servicewide purchase of GPS Precise Positioning System (PPS) receivers. The PPS receivers are the (P)Y code military type GPS receivers made for the Forest Service. The Rockwell Precision Lightweight GPS Receiver (PLGR) [SHOWN IN PHOTO] is a five-channel, single-frequency L1 P/Y code unit capable of positioning accuracy better than 16 meters spherical error probability in autonomous operation. Approximately 100 PLGR's are in use throughout the Forest Service. For added information, telephone Bill Kilroy (406) 329-3925.



SITE PREPARATION ATTACHMENT FOR EXCAVATORS MTDC is trying to find a site preparation attachment for excavators that can mix soil to a depth of 18 inches and control deep-rooted plants, such as bear clover. In British Columbia, MTDC representatives viewed two Canadian site preparation attachments. For information about these attachments, telephone Dick Karsky (406) 329-3921. One machine has a removable baseplate that allows different teeth or attachments to be used for scarifying. The second machine, the Wyatt Silvi-Tiller, is a heavy-duty rototiller-like unit. For additional information, contact Dick Karsky (406) 329-3921.



HANDLING LEAD-BASED PAINTS MTDC will soon publish a series of "Tech Tips" dealing with different aspects of lead-based paints. Many of the older Forest Service structures were painted with this material. Dust particles containing lead may be released as this paint deteriorates or when it is disturbed during renovation or demolition. When lead is ingested in sufficient quantities, it can cause serious health problems, especially in children. MTDC will explain regulations under the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act (Title X), of 1992 that applies to the Forest Service. If you would like to receive this series of "Tech Tips", telephone Andy Trent (406) 329 3912.

TREE CLIMBING GUIDE MTDC is distributing the "National Tree Climbing Field Guide". Climbing and working in trees demands specialized equipment and skills. The guide covers knots, safety equipment, rappelling and rescue equipment and procedures. It provides a basic understanding of tree climbing and equipment. To get a copy, telephone (406) 329 3978.

Army Smokejumpers Helped Smokey in World War II

by Carl Gidlund, Public Affairs Officer,
Idaho Panhandle National Forests,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.



ARMY'S 555TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY BATTALION
in Forest Service Smokejumper training during World War II.

There's a small group of aged African-American Army veterans to whom the fire prevention bear owes a huge debt.

They were members of the world's first Black airborne unit, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. In 1945 they helped save millions of acres of Northwest forests from fires ignited by lightning and balloon bombs launched by our Japanese adversaries.

The unit was loaned to the Forest Service after fire bombs launched into the jet stream above Japan began landing in West Coast forests. Authorities feared that the explosives, coupled with a dry summer, would spark a fire storm that would blacken the Western United States and Canada. And most trained fire fighters were under arms. A battalion officer, now-retired Lt. Col. Bradley Biggs, recalls the mission in a unit history, "The Triple Nickles."

The colonel says the Forest Service and the Army put the paratroopers through an intensive three weeks of training. That included demolitions, "let downs" for tree landings, fire fighting, and "jumping into pocket-sized drop zones studded with rocks and tree stumps, survival in wooded areas," and first aid.

The colonel writes of the troopers' association with the Forest Service: "They were a fine group of men. They could walk up the hills like a cat on a snake walk. They taught us how to climb, use an axe, and what vegetation to eat."

After three training jumps with their new smokejumper gear, battalion members were dispatched to bases in Pendleton, Oregon, and Chico, California. From mid-July to early October 1945, the African-American jumpers amassed more than 1,200 jumps. Their job, recalls Col. Biggs, was tough. "We planned on being dirty and smelly for the duration of any mission, which lasted an average of four to six days. Sometimes we operated in Canada to keep fires out of the U.S."

"We blew up only those bombs that represented a danger. The bomb disposal unit would retrieve others for delivery to intelligence personnel." One man was killed while attempting to lower himself from a 150-foot tree with a smokejumper let-down rope. Thirty others suffered injuries, including a crushed chest, broken legs and a fractured spine.



By late autumn 1945, the hot dry season was ending and a rapid demobilization of the military was underway. The battalion was shipped back to North Carolina where it was ultimately assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. In August 1994, the Forest Service finally honored the men of the 555th Parachute Infantry during a ceremony on the Ellipsis in Washington, D.C. celebrating Smokey's 50th birthday.

6 *Fifth Annual* Inter-Tribal Youth Camp At Fenn Ranger Station

By Kathy Bess, Support Service Supervisor, Moose Creek RD, Nez Perce NF, Grangeville, Idaho.

The week of June 15th brought sunshine and warm weather for the 5th Annual Inter-Tribal Youth Camp at the Fenn Ranger Station.

It was hosted by the Nez Perce National Forest. The Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle NFs assisted in planning and organizing the camp and work projects.

Camp participants assisted the Forest Service in work projects, both at Fenn and on the Lochsa Ranger District. Their help included campground maintenance, water surveys, tree planting, trail clearing, and tree pruning. Participants received classroom education in wildlife, stock handling, archaeology and they observed a prescribed fire and learned about the life and times of being a smokejumper.

Participants, their families, tribal elders, and tribal members attended a barbeque Friday night. After a dinner of traditional salmon, participants told of the work they had completed and the jobs they enjoyed the most at the youth camp. Members of the tribal council presented awards to the participants for their work and learning experience.

It was a great week for the participants and the Forest Service.



1997 YOUTH CAMP PARTICIPANTS & ASSISTANTS: (back row/ L to R) Doug Simler, Nez Perce NF; Carol Smith, Clearwater NF; Jun Montelongo; Nathan Moose; Ray Montelongo Jr; Stephanie Pina; Richard Broncheau, Nez Peorce Tribe. Front row: Madelon Caren, Clearwater NF; Rocky Ahshapanek, Nez Perce NF; Cheryl Ench, Clearwater NF; Ray Montelongo; Tom Sandberg, IPNF; Norman Moose; Max Weasel Boy; Freda Montelongo. Photo by Maple Kirtland.

Native American Youth Practicum In Pryor Mountains

by Mary Bell Lunsford, Acting Public Affairs Officer,
Custer National Forest, Billings, Montana.

Twenty-seven Native American students participated in a five-day Youth Practicum, June 23-27, in the Pryor Mountains south of Billings, MT.

The Native American Youth Practicum was a collaborative project involving the Custer and Gallatin National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Little Big Horn College, Crow Tribe, three Affiliated Tribes, Montana State Parks, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

The practicum provided an opportunity for Native American youths to learn, in a real-life classroom in the scenic Pryor Mountains, about holistic ecosystems, range and timber management, conflict resolution, hydrology, wildlife, geology, archaeology and Native American treaty rights.

Tribal elders and leaders taught the students about Native American traditional use of the sweat-lodge, plant identification and traditional uses of some of the wild plants and flowers in the area.

The practicum also provided opportunities for the students to work with natural resource

professionals and managers in a variety of disciplines. One of the major objectives was to promote a better understanding of how important mathematics, science, languages and cultural skills are in a student's academic success and achievements in natural resource careers.

The entire practicum was designed to help the Native American students recognize, understand and appreciate the need for higher education in achieving their social, cultural, economic and professional goals and ambitions.

The practicum staff was pleased and proud of the students when they heard the youths' presentations at the closing program on the fifth day. It was more than apparent that the practicum goals and objectives had been exceeded.

It was an enriching experience for the twenty-seven students. For the staff, it was an important learning experience. We left with a new and special understanding and appreciation of the youths and a genuine admiration of these young leaders of tomorrow.



Jeff DiBenedetto and Mike Bergstrom, both from the Custer National Forest, talk with Youth Practicum students about soils.

Photo by Mary Bell Lunsford

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Volunteers Work at Ranch

Forest Service employees from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest joined with their National Park Service colleagues, July 11-12-13, at the Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site, Deer Lodge, MT, to mark Western Heritage Days and the 25th anniversary of the Park Service's purchase of the historic ranch.

The Forest Service volunteers helped the Park Service at the annual event with some of the demonstrations at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch: blacksmithing, chuck wagon cooking, tours of the ranch house, music, saddle making, tours of the bunkhouse, roundup of cattle, branding, etc.



BOB GILMAN (left), Deer Lodge District Ranger, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, and **Arnie Irwin**, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Deer Lodge, MT, demonstrate cattle branding at the three-day Western Heritage Days celebration on the National Park Service's Grant-Kohrs Ranch at Deer Lodge, Montana. **Donn Despain** (out of camera range when the picture was taken), range-land management specialist, Deer Lodge RD, was the roper at this branding demonstration.

Photo by Patrick J Krohn, THE MONTANA STANDARD, Butte, MT

Regionwide Forest Inventory Analysis is Now In 5th Year

by **Allen S. Rowley**, Public Affairs Officer, Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, MT.

A program was initiated in 1993 to do an extensive, regionwide Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA). Data from this inventory analysis is being used in Resource Planning Act (RPA) planning and other Regional and Forest-specific planning projects, including some Forest level validations of Upper Columbia River Basin Project (UCRB) data layers.

The Flathead and Kootenai National Forests were the first Forests to be measured, in the 1993 and 1994 field seasons.

In the effort to build and maintain an extensive and consistent Regionwide forest inventory

analysis, an Inventory Service Center (ISC) has been established on the Flathead National Forest. The ISC staff has ranged from 70 to 100 employees to conduct the needed inventories across the Northern Region. This year the total work force is nearly 100 people in the Inventory Service Center. Temporary employees make up 90% of the work force required to make the field measurements.

ISC starts each field season with an intensive, two-week forest measurement training program. As trainees, the employees work under close supervision. Crews are required to pass field examinations to validate and demonstrate their ability to collect data to set standards.

Inventories have now been completed on the Bitterroot, Lolo, and Lewis & Clark National Forests.

In June, the RO released the inventory analysis findings from the Flathead, Kootenai and Bitterroot National Forests. The inventories concluded that mortality on these Forests exceeds the current rate of harvest. Based on this inventory, these three National Forests have an annual combined sawlog growth of approximately 900 million board feet with a 400 million board foot sawlog mortality on lands outside wilderness areas. The mortality component of these three National Forests is equivalent to two billion tons of biomass. Recent harvests on these three Forests combined has been approximately 160 million board feet of timber.



INVENTORY SERVICE CENTER WORKERS making measurements in a Forest Inventory Analysis on the Flathead National Forest.

Photo by Inventory Service Center.

The Inventory Service Center has its largest work force to date this year as it strives to complete inventories on the Helena, Beaverhead, Deerlodge and Custer National Forests and get a good start on the Gallatin National Forest.

FIA is built around a systematic, 5,000-meter grid that defines each plot center, each plot center being approximately three miles apart. Plot centers are monumented to facilitate re-measurement on a planned cycle of every ten years.

Around each center, there is a cluster of four measurement plots. On the measurement plots, measurements start one foot below the surface of the ground and extend to the top of the tallest tree. Measurements include measurements of ground fuels, habitat typing, and traditional tree measurements. Because of the extensive measurements and travel time required, each crew of three averages one plot per day. In wilderness settings, this often includes camping out and extensive off-trail hiking.

In order to capture the greatest benefit from the skills of the ISC employees and equipment, the Center is taking on additional Forest measurement work. These include timber cruising the lands for the Big Sky Land Exchange, site specific small stand examinations and pre-sale timber cruising.

8 Russian Foresters, Geneticists Visit Palouse R.D.

by Gary J. Manning, District Silviculturist, Palouse
Ranger District, Potlatch, ID, Clearwater National Forest.

Seven Russian foresters and geneticists on a three-week tour of the Northwest spent a day touring the Mineral Mountain timber sale area on the Palouse RD, Potlatch, ID, Clearwater NF.

The delegation visited the Palouse on a tour hosted by Washington State University. The April forest genetics study tour was part of the Russian Far East Sustainable Management Project.

George Howe, Missoula, regional geneticist, and Gary Manning, district silviculturist, led the study tour discussions of reforestation and forest genetics.

Following a morning classroom session, the group toured the timber sale area. In a series of roadside lectures, Manning explained a few tenets of sound reforestation. Mattvei Finkel, Spokane, and Lena Usova of Khabarovskii Krai, Russia, translated the discussion into Russian.

Howe told the visiting foresters that sound silvicultural practices involve considering genetics when choosing the trees to leave behind long after the logging trucks clear the harvest area. "These older, veteran trees

represent a kind of genetic bank," Howe explained.

Manning suggested the visiting foresters "leave the best of these biggest, seral trees. American foresters search out locally-adapted trees and older trees genetically adapted to the forest they were grown in."

David Baumgartner, Washington State University professor and extension forester, said the Russians' investigative tour of the Northwest included forests, greenhouses, laboratories and lumber mills. "They had a thorough lesson in reforestation."

Usova, chief forestry assistant for the Environmental Policy and Technology Project, added, "We hope this will make a difference in our programs." The U.S. Agency for International Development is funding the

RUSSIAN FORESTERS & GENETICISTS
touring a timber sale area on the Palouse RD. Among the participants were George Howe, regional geneticist (3rd from left); David Baumgartner, Washington State University professor and extension forester (4th from right); Gary Manning, district silviculturist (2nd from right); and Lena Usova of Khabarovskii Krai, Russia, who helped with the translating (5th from right). Photo by Dustin Solberg, MOSCOW (Idaho) DAILY NEWS.



project. It includes ventures in environmental education and fire management.

Although translation was necessary, some communication did occur spontaneously due to the universal use of Latin names. "We discovered that lessons in sustainable forestry translates well across cultures in both directions," Manning observed.



CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR JIM CASWELL (right) and Dave Owsley, representing the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery, visit with some of the children at the Clearwater Kids Learning Center's recent open house.

Photo by Kathy Thompson

Child Care Center Clearwater NF SO

by Kathleen Thompson, Information Assistant,
Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho

(from CLEARWATER CURRENTS,
Clearwater NF employee newsletter)

The Clearwater Kids Learning Center opened in May, on the ground level of the Clearwater NF SO/North Fork Ranger District office in Orofino, Idaho, for local Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employees, and other parents and caregivers needing quality care for their children.

Care is provided, Monday through Friday, for children of any age. At least half of the children's parents work for the Federal government. Children of parents who work for non-Federal employers are welcome at the center. Everyone pays the same rate, children of Federal employees and children of parents who do not work for the Federal

government. The center can care for 24 children.

Federal employees formed the Orofino Federal Employees Child Association (OFECA) as a non-profit corporation. The association is in charge of the Kids Learning Center and financing the operation. OFECA has employed a director to manage the center's daily operations.

The Forest Service provided the space (1,670 feet) for the self-supporting business. Financing for the staffing and operating costs are paid for by those who use the facility.

In addition to the regular enrollees, children are welcome on a drop-in basis when space permits.

Kootenai NF Employees' Seventeen-Year Tradition Of School Scholarships

by Jean M. Spooner, Kootenai NF SO, Libby, MT

Following a tradition that began in 1981, the Kootenai National Forest's employees this year awarded \$6,050 in scholarships to graduating seniors at local high schools.

In the 17 years since the scholarship program was initiated, Forest Service employees have awarded more than \$48,000 to graduating seniors.

This spring, Libby area employees awarded \$400 scholarships to five graduating seniors at Libby High School. Selection was based on academic achievements, community service and need. Employees raised the scholarship money from potlucks, raffles and donations. Libby RD and the Kootenai NF SO employees have awarded a total of \$27,000 in the past 14 years.

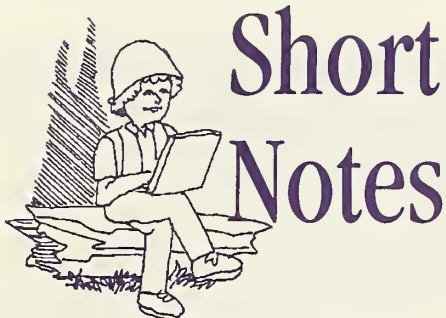
Fortune and Rexford Ranger Districts' employees collected \$3,150 in scholarship funds this year. Graduates from this area of Lincoln County who plan on future schooling may apply for a scholarship if they are entering a Forest Service-related field, are a dependent of a Forest Service employee, or have worked for the Forest Service. Since 1981 these Fortune and Rexford District employees have awarded a total of 60 scholarships valued at more than \$16,000.

Three graduating seniors at Troy High School received \$300 each in scholarships from the employees of Three Rivers Ranger District, Troy, MT. The 1997 recipients are Krista Hunt, Kate Wright and Kathy Williams. Three Rivers employees raised the scholarship money



TROY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR KATHY WILLIAMS accepts a \$300 scholarship at an awards assembly at the high school. Three Rivers District Ranger Mike Balboni presented the cash award. Funds for the Scholarship were raised by employees on the Three Rivers Ranger District. Photo by Shelly Anderson, Three River Ranger District.

through rummage sales, a scholarship breakfast and miscellaneous luncheons. Aluminum cans collected for recycling also added dollars to the scholarship fund. In eleven years, Three Rivers RD employees have awarded a total of \$5,800 to seniors at Troy High School.



Short Notes

REGIONWIDE FREEZE was announced July 23 by Regional Forester Hal Salwasswer on external permanent hiring, "To maintain Regional flexibility as we work through our restructuring effort." Effective immediately and until further notice, it does not apply to the normal internal vacancy announcement process or to temporary, term, and student employment programs.

TORNADO RIPS THROUGH BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NF south of Butte, MT, July 19, blowing down trees in a five to six-mile-long swath. Butte District Ranger Margie Ewing reported that in several areas the winds completely leveled as much as five acres. She said the Forest Service plans to sell the bulk of the downed timber under emergency salvage authority.

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL Foundation annual meeting/workshop was in Missoula, August 7-9, at the Holiday Inn-Parkside.

1997 SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS national convention will be October 4-8 in Memphis, Tennessee.

COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST REUNION in 1998, June 26-28, in Colville. For details, write Colville NF, 765 South Main, Colville, WA 99114.

TRAPPER CREEK STUDENTS & STAFFER RECOGNIZED by Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center for participating in a rescue earlier this summer. Mike Watson, with the National Park Service in West Virginia, collapsed along the Boulder Creek Trail in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness while participating in a wilderness management training program. The students and staffer safely delivered Watson to a waiting helicopter that

transported him to a Missoula hospital. Watson was treated, and released. He has since returned to work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on concept of reintroducing grizzly bears into wilderness areas in central Idaho and western Montana. A draft environmental impact statement and proposed rules are available to the public. Public hearings were conducted in Helena, MT, and Boise, ID, on August 29; in Missoula, MT, and Lewiston, ID, August 28, and Salmon, ID, and Hamilton, MT, on August 27.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Lands Recognizes Outstanding Work In Real Estate

by Scott Bixler, *RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage, Wilderness*

Five individuals received awards at the R-1 Lands Program Officers' annual awards program meeting, in Kalispell, MT, in June, for their outstanding contributions to the Northern Region's real estate management program.

Director's Award

BOB KLARICH, forester on the multi-resources staff, Bonners Ferry RD, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, received the 1997 Director's Award in recognition of his work on the Pacific Gas Transmission Pipeline and his innovative approach in collecting agreements.

Lands Achievement Awards

TED P. ANDERSON forester (realty), on the technical staff of the Kootenai National Forest, Libby, MT, received a Lands Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership that resulted in the completion of the "Checkerboard Exchange" with Plum Creek Timber Company.

FRANK GROVER, forester on the Lolo National Forest's infrastructure and operations staff, Missoula, received a Lands Achievement Award for his work with the City of Missoula on the Mt. Jumbo purchase and his role in the Montana Initiative for the New World Mine.

TOM SUK, lands specialist on the Clearwater National Forest's technical services staff, Orofino, Idaho, received a Lands Achievement Award for his work on the Outfitter-Guide Administration Guide Book.

GARY HOWARD, realty specialist (land exchange), Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest planning staff, received a Lands Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication and commitment to the Lands Program. He was the first candidate in the nation to complete the entire curriculum in the USDA Forest Service Lands Program Correspondence series.



Ted Anderson, Kootenai National Forest, accepts Lands Achievement Award from Drake at the R-1 Lands Program Officers meeting in Kalispell. Photos by Scott Bixler



RO RMLHW Director John Drake (right) presents R-1 Lands Achievement Award to Tom Suk, Clearwater NF.



Frank Grover, Lolo National Forest, accepts Lands Achievement Award from Drake.



BOB KLARICH, Bonners Ferry RD, Idaho Panhandle NF, accepts R-1 Director's Award from John Drake.

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BARRINGER, PATRICIA, civil engineering technician, Jefferson RD, promotion to engineering technician, Jefferson RD
CRANDALL, JUDITH, dispatcher, promotion, SO
DALLAS, DAN, district ranger, promotion, Colville NF, Newport RD
KAMRUD, TED, engineering technician, Jefferson RD, promotion
OLSON, TRUDI, law enforcement assistant, SO Annex, promotion
ROHRER, TAIGA, lead forestry technician, Madison RD, promotion, supervisory fire engine operator, Grand Mesa NF
THOMPSON, JOHN, lead forestry technician, Madison RD, promotion, Grand Mesa NF

Reassignments & Transfers

BERRY, LARRY, telecommunications specialist, reassignment, Sawtooth N.F. SO
JOHNSON, GEORGE, forestry technician, SO, reassignment, Dillon RD
HODGE, BOB, forestry technician, SO, reassignment, Butte R.D.
NAGY, ROCHELLE, lead forestry technician, Lolo NF, Nine Mile RD, reassignment, Madison RD
PETRICK-UNDERWOOD, STEVE, forestry technician, transfer, lead forestry technician, Wisdom RD
SUMMERS, T. JOE, forestry technician, Idaho Panhandle NF, reassignment to lead forestry technician, Wise River R.D.
WOODS, PATRICIA, forestry technician, Dillon SO, transfer to Southern Research Station, Asheville, NC.

New Employees

STRAUSER, GLEN, lead forestry technician, Madison RD, Sheridan WC

Retirements & Resignations

SUGAR, CHRIS, forester, Wise River RD, resignation

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ALEXANDER, JOE, rangeland management specialist, Sula RD, temporary promotion to range conservationist
BURHOP, BILL, supervisory technician, Sula RD, temporary promotion
ELZIG, KATHLEEN, forestry technician, SO, temporary promotion to supervisory forestry technician AFD
GIBSON, NANCY, forestry technician, SO, temporary promotion to forest dispatcher
LAWS, RORY, forestry technician, Darby RD, promotion to supervisory forestry technician
LITVIN, MARTY, forestry technician (helicopter manager), SO, temporary promotion to aviation manager
OPPEGARD, CHUCK, forestry technician, Sula RD, temporary promotion
RAINES, RICH, civil engineering technician, SO, promotion
RAWLINGS, STEVE, forestry technician, Darby RD, promotion to supervisory forestry technician
STALEY, MARY JO, voucher examiner, SO, promotion to purchasing agent, Trapper Creek JCC
WILSON, MIKE, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, temporary promotion to forester

Reassignments

RUSSELL, JANET, computer assistant, Stevensville RD, reassigned to operations support clerk, Trapper Creek JCC
MCCLURE, TOM, range conservationist, Sula RD, reassigned to R-2 White River NF, Blanco RD, rangeland management specialist

New Employees

HENSLEY, LAUREEN, nurse practitioner, Anaconda Job Corps Center, career-conditional appointment

Retirements & Resignations

GROVES, CARL, scsep, Anaconda JCC, resigned
SMITH, WALTER, forestry technician, Sula RD, retirement

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

FRANCIS, C. MICHAEL, information assistant, SO, promotion, office automation assistant, SO

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BECKEN, PETE, Forestry Technician, Livingston RD
CHRISTIANSEN, STEVE, Planner, SO
KUJAWA, GREG, Land Management Planner, Gardiner RD
HANCOCK, TIM, Supervisory Forester, Bozeman RD
RATH, DICK, FMO, Livingston RD
ROWLAND, PATRICIA, Resource Clerk, Hebgen Lake RD, career promotion
SHULER, SCOT, Fish Biologist, Gardiner RD
STORY, MARK, Hydrologist, SO
WILSON, TODD, Lead Forestry Technician, Livingston RD
WONG, MIKE, Support Services Specialist, Bozeman RD

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST**New Employees**

KATSILOMETES, ATHAN, student career experience (coop), personnel management student trainee, SO
 MONCAYO, CARLA, student career experience (coop) financial management student trainee, SO
 ROMERO, DAVID, student career experience (coop), wildlife student trainee, Bonners Ferry RD

Reassignments & Transfers

BATEMAN, STEVEN, supervisory forester, reassignment from Nez Perce NF, supervisory forester, Wallace/Fernan RD
 TERRILL, WILLIAM, forester, reassignment from Bitterroot NF, forester, Bonners Ferry RD

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

HORNER, MARK, Animal Packer, Moose Creek RD, Promotion
 MCDONALD, TIMOTHY, Resource Info. Specialist, Salmon River RD, Promotion
 PRESTON, JOHN, Law Enforcement Officer, Central Idaho Zone, QSI
 RITTER, DANIEL G., Wilderness Resource Specialist, Moose Creek RD, Performance Award

Reassignments & Transfers

ORTEGA, STEVEN, Rangeland Management Specialist, Clearwater RD, Term Appt in Dept. of Interior

Retirements & Resignations

AIKEN, RONNIE, Forestry tech, Clearwater RD, Retirement
 FERRIS, DEBI, Forestry Tech, Moose Creek RD, Resignation
 ZUNDEL, DANIEL G., Maintenance Worker, Red River RD, Retirement



In Memoriam

DELBERT COX, 88, Kamiah, Idaho, died July 26 at Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino, Idaho. He retired from the Forest Service in 1966 after 34 years of Federal service. Cox worked 32 years with the Forest Service. Born in Nezperce, Idaho, he did seasonal work for the Nez Perce NF, 1930-34 (lookout, fireman, laborer, trail foreman, strawboss). He accepted a Forest Service appointment in 1935 as a work foreman on the Nez Perce NF and was promoted to administrative assistant. After serving as fire dispatcher on the Selway RD, he was promoted to forester and served on the Slate Creek, Kelly Creek and Bungalow Ranger Districts. He served as district ranger for the Bungalow Ranger RD (1954); highway design engineer in the Clearwater NF headquarters, Orofino (1956) and served as district ranger for the Lolo RD (1957-59) and Ninemile RD (1959-63). From 1963 until his retirement in 1966, Cox was fire coordinator for 16 National Forests and four National Grasslands (29 million acres) in the five-state Northern Region.

GARY L. HALVORSON, 61, died July 23 in Tucson. After his graduation from the University of Montana School of Forestry, he began a career with the Forest Service in 1964. He worked on forestry and wildlife management issues in Montana and Idaho. With the passage of the Endangered Species Act (1973), Halvorson was responsible for implementing, through research and management actions, the recovery plan for the grizzly bear in the Northwest. The Halvorson family lived in Missoula from 1962 to 1977. He worked for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the regional headquarters in Albuquerque from 1977 until his retirement in October of 1994.

VIRGIL D. MOSS, 88, died April 8, 1997, in Spokane, Washington. A native of Fairfield, Washington, he graduated from Fairfield High School and held undergraduate and graduate degrees in forestry from the University of Idaho. After 35 years with the Forest Service, Moss retired in January of 1967 as chief of the methods development and improvement branch, Spokane, USDA Forest Service Northern Region Division of State & Private Forestry. He did seasonal work for the Bureau of Plant Industry in Spokane before he accepted an appointment as an assistant pathologist with the Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine in Spokane in 1936. He later served as assistant forest ecologist and forest ecologist and transferred to the Forest Service in 1953 as an agriculturist in the Spokane blister rust control unit and was promoted to research forester in 1959. He received a Certificate of Merit in 1957 for outstanding performance in the development of blister rust control methods and received the USDA Superior Service Award in 1960 for his highly significant contribution to forestry through pioneering the development and use of antifungal antibiotics (Acti-dione) to control white pine blister rust.

THOMAS E. SMITH, 88, died June 24 in Missoula. He graduated from Corvallis (MT) High School and attended the University of Montana School of Forestry and Fargo (N.D.) State Agriculture College. He started his Forest Service career as a seasonal laborer on the Magruder RD, Bitterroot NF, in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in June of 1924. He worked 11 summers on the Magruder RD, left the Forest Service in the fall of 1935 and returned to the Forest Service in 1942 as dispatcher for the Bitterroot NF. He was promoted to Forest fire control staff officer in 1942. He was promoted to Northern Region safety officer in the RO in 1962. Smith retired in 1971 after 40 years with the Forest Service.

DONALD E. TUCKER, 39, Potomac, MT, died July 22 at St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, from injuries he sustained in a one vehicle accident July 17 on I-90 west of Butte, Montana. Donald was a temporary employee for the Forest Ecology Group of the Gallatin National Forest at the time of his death and had worked for the Gallatin for the past two seasons. An accomplished endurance athlete, Donald was invited to try out for the U.S. Olympic Nordic Ski Team and was well known in Marathon and ultra-Marathon running races. Donald earned a Bachelors Degree in biology from the University of Montana and loved to work on his tree farm near the Lubrecht Forest area in Potomac. His infectious enthusiasm for life and fun affected all who came into contact with him. Donald is survived by his parents, Donald B. and June Tucker, three brothers and four sisters, and his young son, Tory. Memorials may be made to Tory's Educational Fund c/o Donald and June Tucker, 73 South Blackhawk, Janesville WI 53545.



Hal Salwasser

A Going Away Dinner to honor Hal Salwasser

Will be Thursday, September 4
at the Boone & Crockett
National Headquarters,
250 Station Drive,
Missoula, MT.
No Host Cocktails 6 PM
Dinner at 7
\$10 per person
For details and reservations
(406) 329-3439
(casual dress)

Retirees Write About Pictures

Lookout, Warehouse Pictures Recalled by Hal A. Samsel

Hal A. Samsel, R-1 retiree who now lives in Polson, MT, identified a 1922 "Into The Past" picture of a fire warehouse, printed on the back (page 12) of the May issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS. "The building is the old South Side garage, on Orange Street in Missoula." Samsel also identified the young boy, horses and dog in the picture of the Morrell Mountain Lookout in the January issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS. He writes "...it is a picture of me, the kid standing by the corner of the lookout, my Dad's horses, right to left, 'Happy,' 'Tess', and 'Alice' and my dog, 'Bugs'. The picture was taken by my Dad, 'W.K. Samsel', Ranger on the Seeley Lake Ranger District at the time, November 1939."

Three R-1 Retirees Write About Warehouse

Paul A. Wilson, R-1 retiree, writes from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, about the fire warehouse in the "Into The Past" picture in the May issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS. He was correct in placing it in Missoula. "If I remember right, it was on South Higgins Ave., close to the present 3rd street." [Near third, on Orange, not Higgins.] "Adams Camp and Ranger Station, 1925, [pictured in the February issue] photo reminded me of my last fire jump as a smokejumper before I transferred to the St. Joe National Forest. We came out in a snowstorm" to the Ranger Station and were grounded for four days in Grangeville by a blizzard. Wilson retired in 1980 from the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

James L. Covert, R-1 retiree now living in Harrington, WA, guessed the fire warehouse picture "could be in Orofino" because the town had "some old buildings in Orofino that looked similar" to the one in the picture when he started to work there in 1995. Covert writes the Forest Service had a warehouse in in Pierce. "The new warehouse was built in the early 1960s in Orofino."

John B. Dillon, R-1 retiree in Missoula, guessed the pictured warehouse was in Spokane. The Spokane warehouse was a "general supply depot and remained so until the advent of GSA (General Services Administration)." Dillon writes that the Spokane warehouse "put out a catalog, from which you could order anything from a mule halter to the famous dinnerware inscribed with the Forest Service insignia."

INTO THE PAST

Can you name this Lewis & Clark National Forest ranger station? The picture was taken in 1914. On the porch are Ranger Thomas Guy Myers, his wife, Emily McLaurie Myers, their son, Robert, (standing by the family dog, "Tigh"), and an unknown man seated back in the shadow. The Forest is restoring the historic ranger station and furnishing it with period furniture. The restored ranger station will be used for meetings and conferences. Conducted tours will be available to visitors. Now, the name of the Ranger Station ?



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